Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Listing of the Claims:

1. - 32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) A sterile ophthalmic composition comprising one or more agents capable of inhibiting lens epithelial proliferation, dissolved in a physiologically isotonic solution in a concentration sufficient to kill or render non-proliferative lens epithelial cells in less than 3 minutes.

34. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 33, wherein the physiological isotonic solution comprises a balanced salt solution.

35. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 33, wherein the one or more agents include one or more cytotoxic agents.

36. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 35, wherein the one or more cytotoxic agents are selected from the group consisting of saporin, ricin, methotrexate, 5-fluorouracil, daunomycin, doxorubicin, mitoxanthrone, vinca alkaloids, vinblastine, colchicine, cytochasins, monensin, mitomycin and ouabain.

37. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 36, wherein the one or more cytotoxic agents include 5-fluorouracil.

38. (Previously Presented and Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 36, wherein the one or more cytotoxic agents include saporin.

39. (Previously Presented and Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 36, wherein the one or more cytotoxic agents include mitomycin.

40. (Previously Presented and Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 36, wherein the one or more cytotoxic agents include doxorubicin.

41. (Previously Presented and Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 33, wherein the one or more agents comprise a molecule of nucleic acid comprising a gene coding for an agent inducing the death of the lens epithelial cells, under a transcriptional control specific to said cells.

42. (Previously Presented and Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 41, wherein the gene coding for an agent inducing the death of the lens epithelial cells is selected from the group consisting of genes coding for a protein inducing cell death by necrosis and genes coding for proteins toxic for the lens epithelial cells.

43. (Previously Presented and Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 42, wherein the gene coding for an agent inducing the death of the lens epithelial cells is a gene coding for an agent inducing apoptosis, or a gene involved in the process of apoptosis.

44. (Previously Presented and Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 41, wherein the gene coding for an agent inducing the death of the lens epithelial cells is selected from the group consisting of genes coding for p53, BAX, FLICE (caspase 8), TRAIL and TRAIL-R.

45. (Previously Presented and Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 34, wherein the one or more agents include a molecule of nucleic acid comprising a gene coding for an agent inducing the death of the lens epithelial cells, under a transcriptional control specific to said cells.

46. (Previously Presented and Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 33, wherein the one or more agents comprise a vector comprising a molecule of a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of genes coding for a protein inducing cell death by necrosis and genes coding for proteins toxic for the lens epithelial cells.

47. (Previously Presented and Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 46, wherein the vector is an adenovirus vector.

48. (Previously Presented and Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 33, wherein the one or more agents include one or more basement membrane binding agents conjugated to one or more cytotoxic agents.

49. (Previously Presented and Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 48, wherein the one or more agents includes one or more basement membrane binding agents conjugated to one or more cytotoxic agents selected from the group consisting of ribosomal inhibitory proteins, antimitotic drugs and ionophores.

50. (Previously Presented and Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 49, wherein the one or more agents includes one or more basement membrane binding agents selected from the group consisting of poly-L-lysine, poly-D-lysine, fibronectin, laminin, type I, II, III or IV collagen, thrombospondin, vitronectin, polyarginine and platelet factor IV, conjugated to one or more cytotoxic agents.

51. (Previously Presented and Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 50, wherein the one or more agents includes poly-L-lysine or poly-D-lysine as a basement membrane binding agent conjugated to one or more cytotoxic agents.

52. (Previously Presented and Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 48, wherein the one or more agents includes one or more cytotoxic agents selected from the group consisting of ribosomal inhibitory proteins, antimitotic drugs and ionophores.

53. (Previously Presented and Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 49, wherein the one or more agents include one or more ribosomal inhibitory proteins as cytotoxic agents.

54. (Previously Presented and Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 33, wherein the one or more agents comprise surfactants.

55. (Previously Presented and Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 33, wherein the one or more agents comprise divalent cation chelators.

56. (Previously Presented and Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 33, wherein the one or more agents comprise analogs or antibodies directed against cell attachment receptors.

57. – 74. (Cancelled).

75. (New) A composition according to claim 33, wherein the one or more agents capable of inhibiting lens epithelial proliferation is dissolved in a physiologically isotonic solution in a

concentration sufficient to kill or render non-proliferative lens epithelial cells in less than 30 seconds.